

What is claimed is:

1. A tension mask assembly for a cathode ray tube
 5 comprising:
 a mask frame including a first pair of frame members
 disposed at opposite ends, respectively, of said mask
 frame;
 a plurality of mask strands disposed between said pair
 10 of frame members and affixed to said pair of frame
 members in a manner to produce tension in said mask
 strands; and
 a third member for supporting said plurality of mask
 strands in a first intermediate region of said mask
 15 strands, between said pair of frame members.

2. A tension mask assembly according to Claim 1
 wherein said third member is disposed in a direction
 parallel to a direction of one of said pair of frame
 20 members and closer to said one of said pair of frame
 members than to the other one of said pair of frame
 members.

3. A tension mask assembly according to Claim 2,
 25 further comprising a fourth member for supporting said
 plurality of mask strands in a second intermediate region
 of said mask strands, between said pair of frame members,
 wherein said fourth member is closer to said other of said
 pair of frame members than to said one of said pair of
 30 frame members.

4. A tension mask assembly according to Claim 1,
 wherein said mask strands are made of an etched strand
 material.

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5. A tension mask assembly according to Claim 1,
 wherein, in a stand alone state, said plurality of mask

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strands are connected to each other with an unetched strand material on each end.

6. A tension mask assembly according to Claim 1
5 wherein said third member is disposed perpendicularly to said mask strands.

7. A tension mask assembly according to Claim 1,
wherein a second pair of frame members are affixed to said
10 first pair of frame members to form said mask frame having a rectangular shape.

8. A tension mask assembly according to Claim 1
wherein said third member and said fourth member apply a
15 frictional force to said mask strands.

9. A tension mask assembly according to Claim 1
wherein said third member is attached to said mask strands
by an adhesive.
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10. A method for forming a tension mask assembly,
comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a tension mask with a plurality of
etched mask strands disposed vertically between two
25 respective end regions;
- (b) affixing a plurality of barrier ridge elements to
the tension mask; and
- (c) affixing the tension mask.

30 11. The method of claim 10 further comprising the
step of aligning the barrier ridge elements perpendicular
to the mask strands.

12. The method of claim 10 further comprising the
35 step of aligning the mask strands and the barrier ridge
elements to the mask frame perpendicular to the mask
strands and the barrier ridge elements.

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13. The method of claim 10 further comprising the
step of trimming the mask strands flush to the outer
portion of a mask frame assembly after the mask strands are
5 affixed to the mask frame.

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